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Borough of Bury St. Edmunds

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1959.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS

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THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR,
ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF BURY ST. EDMUNDS

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public Health Service for the year 1959.

“Suitable housing accommodation, a plentiful and wholesome water supply, clean food and satisfactory sewage disposal are the very foundations upon which the public health is supported.” These words are quoted from the introduction to the Annual Report for 1950, the year in which I was appointed as your Medical Officer of Health. During the years which have elapsed the Council has pursued with vigour and with marked success policies aimed at securing improvement in housing accommodation, water supply and clean food. Throughout this time, however, I have viewed with very grave and increasing concern the conditions at the sewage farm at West Stow. It is therefore a great pleasure to record that in 1959 a start was made upon the construction of a modern sewage disposal works.

The Registrar General’s estimate of the population for 1959 shows the customary small increase. The birth and death rates both declined, the former to a figure very slightly below, and the latter to substantially below the corresponding rates for England and Wales.

There was a welcome and much needed reduction in the infant mortality rate, the actual number of infant deaths being reduced from 20 to 3.

A widespread outbreak of measles accounted for a sharp increase in the total number of cases of infectious diseases notified.

1959 was the first full year in which the department had the services of a second Additional Public Health Inspector, in consequence the statistical record of the work of your Public Health Inspectors, which is included in this report, shows a further substantial increase.

A system of regular inspection of poultry slaughtered for human consumption, which was initiated by your meat inspectors in 1958, has been extended and has become a routine daily task of the department.

I should like to record my thanks to Mr. E. H. Box, your Chief Public Health Inspector, for his loyal support at all times and for his help in the compilation of this report.

Finally I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued interest and encouragement.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. COGGIN BROWN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Authority

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

P. Coggin Brown, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

E. H. Box, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

J. Ellis, M.A.P.H.I.

G. Harrison, M.A.P.H.I.

CLERK

Miss A. Wright

VITAL STATISTICS.

ALL FIGURES IN BRACKETS, which follow in the sequence of this report, relate to the corresponding figures for 1958.

Registrar General's Estimate for 1959	21,740	(21,570)
Census April, 1951	.....	20,045
Rateable Value	.....	£287,112
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate (Est.)	.....	£1,162
Area	.....	3,623 acres

POPULATION:—The Registrar General's estimate shows a small increase of 170, which approximates very closely to the average annual increase of 174 over the last decade.

BIRTHS:—There was a fall in the birth rate. The adjusted rate of 16.4 was slightly below the corresponding rates for England and Wales and for the Boroughs and Urban Districts of West Suffolk.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	328 (343)	185 (170)	143 (173)
Illegitimate	18 (17)	11 (11)	7 (6)
Crude Birth Rate, per 1,000 of population			15.9 (16.7)
Birth Rate per 1,000 corrected for comparability			16.4 (17.2)
„ „ per 1,000 of population England and Wales			16.5 (16.4)

STILLBIRTHS					Total		Male		Female	
Legitimate					4	(4)	3	(2)	1	(2)
Illegitimate					—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births									11.4	(11.0)
„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„
					England and Wales				20.7	(21.6)

DEATHS:—There was a decline in the death rate, which when corrected for the age and sex distribution of the population, compared favourably with the rates for the County of West Suffolk and for England and Wales as a whole.

Influenza accounted for the death of 22 people, almost all of whom were elderly persons at St. Mary's Hospital. Their average age was 74.9 years, 12 being over 80, and 3 more than 90 years of age. Deaths from all other respiratory diseases were reduced, and the number who died from heart and circulatory diseases was 19 fewer than in the previous year. Deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus increased from 7 to 9. Five people died from accidental causes and 2 from suicide. Once again no death was due to maternal causes.

DEATHS:—	Total	Male	Female
	257 (280)	131 (126)	126 (154)
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population —			11.8 (13.0)
Death Rate per 1,000 of population corrected for comparability			9.1 (11.9)
Death Rate per 1,000 of population England and Wales —			11.6 (11.7)

INFANT MORTALITY:—It is most gratifying to record that the number of infant deaths declined from the very high figure of 20 in 1958 to 3 in the year under review. It has been emphasised in previous annual reports that the infant mortality rate must be expected to vary widely from year to year because the figure is based upon a relatively small number of births.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	3 (20)	3 (10)	— (10)
Illegitimate	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			8.7 (55.6)
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births England and Wales			22.0 (22.5)

Prematurity and atelectasis were the causes of the infant deaths all of which occurred in the first week of life.

CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1959

IN BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

					Registrar General's Figures.	
					M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	....	....	....	....	131 (126)	126 (154)
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	....	....	....	1 (—)	— (—)
2	Tuberculosis, other	....	....	....	— (—)	— (—)
3	Syphilitic disease	....	....	....	— (2)	— (1)
4	Diphtheria	....	....	....	— (—)	— (—)
5	Whooping Cough	....	....	....	— (—)	— (—)
6	Meningococcal infections	....	....	....	— (—)	— (—)
7	Acute poliomyelitis	....	....	....	— (—)	— (—)
8	Measles	....	....	....	— (—)	— (—)
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases				— (—)	2 (1)
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	....			5 (2)	3 (5)
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus				7 (6)	2 (1)
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	....			— (—)	3 (7)
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	....			— (—)	1 (2)
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				8 (9)	12 (8)
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	....	....		1 (—)	2 (1)
16	Diabetes	....	....	....	— (1)	1 (3)
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system				15 (22)	22 (30)
18	Coronary disease, angina	....	....		32 (26)	12 (17)
19	Hypertension with heart disease	....			5 (3)	2 (6)
20	Other heart disease	....	....	....	20 (19)	24 (27)
21	Other circulatory disease	....	....		3 (3)	7 (8)
22	Influenza	....	....	....	6 (—)	16 (—)
23	Pneumonia	....	....	....	2 (4)	2 (5)
24	Bronchitis	....	....	....	5 (9)	3 (1)
25	Other diseases of respiratory system				2 (2)	— (1)
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	....			2 (—)	— (—)
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	....			— (—)	1 (2)
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	....	....		3 (2)	1 (—)
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	....	....		1 (1)	— (—)
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	....			— (—)	— (—)
31	Congenital malformations	....	....		— (—)	— (—)
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases				9 (14)	7 (22)
33	Motor vehicle accidents	....	....		2 (—)	1 (1)
34	All other accidents	....	....	....	— (—)	2 (5)
35	Suicide	....	....	....	2 (1)	— (—)
36	Homicide and operations of war	....			— (—)	— (—)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A sharp increase in the incidence of measles caused the total number of cases of infectious diseases notified to be much higher than in the previous year.

MEASLES:—During the summer months there was a widespread outbreak of measles. The total number of cases notified was 263, approximately two thirds of the patients being children of school age. The great majority were uncomplicated cases and no death was caused by this disease.

WHOOPING COUGH:—Only 6 cases were notified during the year.

SCARLET FEVER:—Six cases were reported. With one exception the patients were school children and generally the disease was mild in character.

FOOD POISONING:—Four cases were reported all of which were due to infection with *Salmonella typhi-murium*. Two of the patients were not residents of Bury St. Edmunds but were notified here because in each case the diagnosis was made at the local hospital. Investigations carried out at the homes of the other 2 cases did not produce sufficient evidence to indicate the probable origin of the infection or contamination of food.

POLIOMYELITIS:—One case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis was reported, but the notification was later withdrawn by the Medical Officer of the Infectious Diseases Hospital because the diagnosis was not confirmed.

Under arrangements made by the County Medical Officer very large numbers of children and young adults were vaccinated against poliomyelitis at the clinics in the town and many were treated by their family doctors. Since the end of 1959 the eligible age group has been extended and now vaccine is available for all persons aged between 6 months and 40 years. Vaccination is free of charge, practically painless, and takes only a few seconds to perform. It is the best available protection against this crippling disease.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION:—Two cases of meningococcal meningitis were notified. The patients were infants who were admitted to the local hospital from other districts.

INFECTIVE HEPATITIS:—Only 1 case was reported. The incidence of this disease has declined steadily each year since 1954 when 74 cases occurred.

ENCEPHALITIS:—One case occurred of acute infective encephalitis, probably influenzal. The patient who died from the infection was admitted to hospital in Bury St. Edmunds from another district.

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(other than Tuberculosis).

DISEASE	—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65+	Age Not re-corded	All Ages
Measles	4	14	25	20	26	162	9	2	1	—	—	—	—	263
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	6
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Meningococcal Meningitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Measles ..	1	2	2	26	46	41	89	55	1	—	—	—	263
Whooping Cough	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	6
Scarlet Fever ..	2	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	4
Meningococcal Meningitis ..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS:—Nine (7) new cases, including one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, were notified during the year.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Age and Sex distribution of new cases, 1959.

Age	0	1	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65+	Total
Male	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	5
Female	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	3

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WELL WATER:—Bacteriological examination of samples of water from a well supply showed contamination. The use of this water at 3 cottages was discontinued and connections were made to the town mains. The water from 2 other wells was found to be polluted but after cleansing satisfactory samples were obtained.

WATERCOURSES:—A complaint was received regarding the presence of visible sewage matter in a small watercourse particularly after periods of heavy rain. Strenuous efforts were made by your staff to locate the source of pollution and it was necessary to test with fluorescent dyes, the drains at some hundreds of private houses and many trade premises. Certain defects in the drainage system were detected and remedied since when there has been no further complaint.

SWIMMING BATHS:—One new private swimming bath was opened at a school during the year.

The Council's public swimming bath was much used, presumably on account of the exceptionally fine summer. The water for this bath is taken from the town mains supply and is treated at the bath by chlorination and filtration, the change over period being approximately $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours. With the exception of 1 sample which was taken at the beginning of the season, bacteriological examination of samples of the water from the bath proved satisfactory.

The following is the report of the Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer.—

WATER

GENERALLY.

An adequate and wholesome supply of water to all parts of the Borough has been maintained throughout the year, and in spite of a long period of drought it has not proved necessary at any time to impose restrictions as to use.

ANALYSIS

Samples of raw water and treated water have been taken for analysis at regular intervals during the year, and the results have indicated a consistently high standard of purity.

MAINS AND SERVICES

The Council's policy of keeping all mains and services in a good state of repair has been continued and old and defective services have been replaced in Southgate Street, Hospital Road and Out Westgate. In addition, new mains have been laid to serve the Gainsborough Estate, the Eastern Industrial Estate and the Westley Estate.

VISITS TO WATERWORKS

As in previous years, several parties of schoolchildren and student nurses have visited the waterworks during the year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Disposal of refuse has been accomplished by burning at the refuse destructor and by controlled tipping at the Haberden. As the capacity of the Haberden is limited and the useful life of the destructor is nearing its end, plans are under consideration for other forms of disposal.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The construction of a modern sewage disposal works at Fornham Park and Pumping Station in Pigeon Lane was commenced in October and it is expected that the scheme will be completed in the spring of 1961.

The preparation of the detailed design work for a new main outfall sewer has now reached an advanced stage.

SWIMMING POOL

The deepening of the pool at the diving end and the provision of new diving stages, coupled with an extremely hot and dry summer, resulted in record attendances.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955:—These Regulations have been in force for 4 years and it is pleasing to report that there has been a great improvement in the standard of hygiene in food shops and in other premises where food is handled. The difficulty now is to keep the ever changing staff of these premises fully conversant with the simple rules of personal hygiene, and it is to this end that we are now directing our efforts. Even with the most up to date premises, poorly trained staff lacking knowledge of the proper way to handle food, can undo all the good that has been done. It is therefore necessary to stimulate and maintain interest in food hygiene and, during the year, no opportunity has been lost to stress the importance of this subject.

Special visits were made to 3 restaurants, where with the active co-operation of the managers concerned, specimens and swabs were taken for bacteriological examination from many utensils such as knives, forks and glasses, and from tea cloths, aprons and even the finger nails of certain members of the staff. The results, which proved of interest to staff and management alike, indicated where further improvement could be achieved and showed that at each of these premises a real effort was being made to maintain a high standard of hygiene.

At the Suffolk County Show, held at Fornham All Saints in June, exhibits were displayed giving information on hygienic methods of milk production, and on the need for meat inspection as well as other aspects of the work of a Public Health Department.

In October a Civic Exhibition was organised in the Athenaeum by the local branch of N.A.L.G.O. with whom this department co-operated by displaying exhibits on many public health subjects. In addition members of the public were invited to take part in a competition entitled "Clean Food & Safety in the Home." A "dirty and dangerous" kitchen scene was staged, showing some 75 faults in food handling and safety precautions in the home. Considerable interest was shown in this exhibit and more than 120 entries were received including some very good attempts by school children. Money prizes totalling £7 10s. 0d. were distributed amongst the three persons who recorded the highest number of faults present.

At the request of the management of certain food manufacturing firms illustrated lectures were given to members of their staff. The film strip projector, which was used at these lectures, was loaned by kind permission of the County Medical Officer.

MILK:—Fifteen dairies were registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949–54, and 26 inspections were made at these premises during the year.

Many samples of pasteurised milk from Bury St. Edmunds were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge by the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of the West Suffolk County Council, and in order to avoid duplication of work, copies of the laboratory reports relating to these samples were made available to this department.

All the 69 samples of Pasteurised and T.T. Pasteurised milk subjected to the Methylene Blue Reduction test reached the required standard. Two of the samples examined by the Phosphatase test failed to pass.

Twenty-two samples of raw milk were submitted by members of this department for examination by biological methods. No evidence of Tuberculosis was detected but 1 sample was found to be infected with *Brucella abortus* which is the causative organism of undulant fever in man and of contagious abortion in cattle. The information was passed to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and to the Medical Officer of Health in the district where the milk was produced.

On one occasion during the year legal proceedings were instituted following the discovery of maggots in churns of milk delivered to a local hospital. Fines totalling £40 were imposed.

ICE CREAM:—Sixty-one premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. In addition to 34 inspections of these premises 74 samples of ice cream were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination by the Methylene Blue Reduction Test. Sixty-eight of these samples were classified in provisional grade I, and 6 in provisional Grade II.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES:—During the year discussions were held with various bodies interested in the slaughterhouse problem including the owners of the existing slaughterhouses in Bury St. Edmunds preparatory to the submission of the report on this subject to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food in 1960. At the end of

the year 2 applications had been received by the Council in respect of new premises to be built within the Borough. After reporting adversely upon the existing slaughtering facilities for many years it appears that these conditions may not have to be tolerated much longer.

MEAT INSPECTION:—The total number of animals killed for human consumption, 16,280, was slightly higher than the figure for the previous year. The increase was due to the large number of sheep slaughtered.

					Total number of animals killed for human consumption
1949	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,592
1950	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,357
1951	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,495
1952	.....	.....	.....	.....	11,641
1953	.....	.....	.....	.....	11,552
1954	.....	.....	.....	.....	12,301
1955	.....	.....	.....	.....	14,298
1956	.....	.....	.....	.....	14,396
1957	.....	.....	.....	.....	14,997
1958	.....	.....	.....	.....	16,227
1959	.....	.....	.....	.....	16,280

POULTRY:—Regulations are in force which govern the licensing, construction, and use of slaughterhouses, but there are no similar regulations controlling establishments where poultry is killed and prepared, however, such premises should comply with the standards required by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

In 1958 your meat inspectors initiated a system of regular inspection of dead poultry. This system was extended during 1959 to include the other poultry processing and packing establishments in the town. Although 2,637 birds with a total weight of over $4\frac{1}{4}$ tons were condemned, this represents only a fraction of 1% of the birds killed and in general the quality of the poultry from this district is considered to be high. The main causes of condemnation were emaciation, leukaemia, tuberculosis, tumours, abscesses and malformations.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (if known)	2583	214	107	6996	6380	—
Number inspected	2583	214	107	6996	6380	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI						
Whole carcases condemned	5	2	—	32	73	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	604	55	3	332	742	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	23.6	26.6	2.8	5.2	12.8	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.						
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	54	8	1	—	128	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	2.1	3.7	.9	—	2.0	—
CYSTICERCI						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	63	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	63	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

C. Bovis 2.3% of total cattle inspected.

ANALYSIS OF CONDEMNED

Cattle

	Whole Carcases	Heads & Tongues	Lungs	Livers & Pt. Livers	Skirts	Hearts	Whole Carcases
Tuberculosis	1	23	40	10			
Pneumonia Pericarditis Pleurisy, Peritonitis Melanosis and Emphysema			15	6		1	2
Pyæmia, Pyrexia Gangrene, Septicaemia	2						2
Liver Fluke, Cirrhosis and other Parasitic conditions			7	448			
Nephritis, Necrosis Degeneration and Contamination, C. Angioma				30			
Emaciation and Oedema	3						24
Actinomycosis and Actinobacillosis		13					
Tumours, Abscesses Cystic conditions and Adhesions		3	12	149	3		
Multiple Burns							
C. Bovis		55			3	6	
Icterus and Uraemia	1						1
Odour	1						2
Swine Erysipelas							
Moribund, Bruising, etc.							1
TOTALS	8	94	74	643	6	7	32

The following Carcase Meat was also condemned :—

					BEEF
Bruising, Atrophy, or Decomposition	.....	.....			421 lb.
Abscesses	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Arthritis	.....	.....	.....	.....	—

The total weight of all meat condemned in the

MEAT AND OFFAL.

Sheep					Pigs				Calves		
Lungs	Livers	Hearts	Whole Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Livers	Hearts	Kidneys	Whole Carcases	Livers	Intestines
				142	1						1
123		3	22		505	2	74				
			12								
110	89				13	109					
	10	1			1	14		2		1	
			16								
2	16	1		2	1	30		5			
			20								
			1								
			2								
235	115	5	73	144	521	155	74	7		1	1

MUTTON

40 lb.

—

—

PORK

285 lb.

198 lb.

69 lb.

VEAL

42 lb.

—

—

slaughterhouses was 11 tons. 12 cwts. 1 qr. 6 lb.

FOOD PREMISES:—The number of food premises in the area classified by type of business, the number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the number of inspections of these premises, which were made during the year, are recorded in the accompanying table.

	Number Registered under Sect. 16 F. & D. Act.	*Total Number of premises.	Number of inspections made.
Butchers and Pork Butchers	18	20	66 (53)
Bakers	—	12	86 (61)
Confectioners	—	34	37 (50)
Fish – Wet	1	5	24 (31)
Fish – Fried	12	12	41 (42)
Greengrocers	—	16	57 (28)
General Provisions	1	63	115 (127)
Hotels	—	11	53 (45)
Licensed Premises (excluding hotels)	—	59	82 (102)
Restaurants, Cafes and Canteens	—	51	138 (93)
Other Food Premises	—	36	30 (48)

* These figures should be regarded as approximate because in many cases different businesses are conducted from the same premises.

UNSOUND FOOD:—Foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption and diverted to other purposes or destroyed were:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lb.
Cheese		1	2	1
Bacon			2	12
Fish				20
Sausages				12
Poultry	4	5	3	1
Fruit		2	1	19
Ham			3	22
Miscellaneous		1	2	9
Tinned Meat, 510 tins		6	1	4
Tinned Vegetables, Milk, Fish, Fruit, etc., 3,142 tins	1	8	2	17
TOTAL	6	8	0	5
Meat and Offals (at slaughterhouses)	11	12	1	6
TOTAL	18	—	1	11

Number of certificates of condemnation issued 2,069 (1,697).

The methods used for the disposal of unsound food were unchanged.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	34	27	3	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	177	176	22	
(iii) Other Premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	28	12	2	
Total	239	215	27	

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found.	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	9	6			
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	2	2			
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	13	9	1		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	4	3		1	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	9	7		1	
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1			
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	15	13	2		
TOTAL	53	41	3	2	

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work.	Section 110.			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel, Making, etc.	5					
The making of boxes wholly or partially of paper	5					
TOTAL	10					

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There was a further increase in the number of factory premises on the Register. The need for regular inspection is emphasised in the accompanying table (Page 19) which shows the number and type of defects found.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1950.

Throughout the year officers of this department continued to perform the duties concerned with the execution and enforcement of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950.

ANTHRAX:—On the 30th June the carcase of a heifer, which had died on a farm, was dressed at the local Hunt Kennels and the hide was collected by a firm of tanners from Ipswich. The head of the animal was sent to the Veterinary Investigation Centre at Cambridge where on the 3rd July a diagnosis of anthrax was made. Immediate action was taken under the Anthrax Order, 1938. Form A was served, the hide was traced and destroyed and the carcase, which had been quartered, was burned. The persons who handled the carcase were kept under surveillance and, fortunately, no ill effects were observed.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The number of inspections made by the staff of this department and of treatments by the Council's operator were as follows:—

PRIVATE DWELLINGS

Inspections	1,125
Treatments	287

BUSINESS AND OTHER PREMISES

Inspections	772
Treatments	101

In addition to the above, 2 maintenance treatments were carried out to the sewerage system of the town, and periodic inspections and treatments were made at the sewage farm, refuse destructor and refuse tips. One major infestation with rats was dealt with during the year at the Council's sewage farm at West Stow.

Mr. F. C. Denney, the Council's Rodent Operator for 15 years, retired in September and some difficulty was experienced in filling the vacancy.

During the summer many complaints were received regarding the presence of wasps' nests, and 150 nests were destroyed.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

On 2 occasions during the year it was necessary to take action under this section to secure the removal to hospital of elderly persons in need of care and attention.

HOUSING.

The Ministry of Health no longer require details on housing matters to be included in the annual reports of Medical Officers of Health, but because so much of your officers' time is devoted to housing inspection some brief notes on this subject are recorded below:—

Building Progress. New housing accommodation provided during 1959 was as follows:—

LOCAL AUTHORITY	Under construction on
Completed in 1959	31st December, 1959.
66	74
(including 44 of the one bedroom type)	
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE	Under construction on
Completed in 1959	31st December, 1959.
59	31

IMPROVEMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSES:—It is worthy of note that a high proportion of the tenants of the Council's older houses have accepted the Council's offer to improve and modernise their homes even at the cost of an increase in rent.

OVERCROWDING:—Three cases of statutory overcrowding were abated, but at the end of the year a further 8 houses were known to be overcrowded.

SLUM CLEARANCE:—Good progress has been maintained in this important work. Since 1955 when the Council embarked upon the present programme 160 unfit houses have been demolished and a further 141 have had Closing or Demolition orders placed upon them or have been included in Clearance Areas.

In the year under review 63 families were displaced from sub-standard houses and 57 of these were rehoused by the Local Authority. Forty houses were demolished, and Clearance Areas containing 17 houses were awaiting confirmation at the end of the year.

HOUSING REPAIRS:—The closure and demolition of sub-standard properties form a necessary part of the work of this department, but the encouragement of repairs and improvements to other houses

which can be made fit for human habitation is even more important. In this connection it is gratifying to report that 415 unfit or defective houses were repaired or improved during 1959 as a result of the formal or informal action of your officers. The following list shows details of the work completed:—

Roofs repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	104
Guttering and rainwater down pipes repaired or renewed	.....				68
External walls repaired or repointed	.....	.....	.....		108
Doors repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	42
Chimneys, flues and fireplaces repaired	.....	.....	.....		111
Floors repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	111
Windows repaired or enlarged, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	188
Dampness remedied	.....	.....	.....	.....	189
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	148
Stairs and staircases repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	58
Food stores provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	36
Internal water supplies provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
Sinks provided or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
Water closets repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	34
Additional water closets provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Drainage – repairs and improvements	.....	.....	.....	.....	148
External decoration	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Yard pavements repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Dangerous structures made safe	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....	.....	23
				TOTAL	1,450

DUSTBINS:—At the end of the year 724 bins had been provided under the Council's dustbin scheme.

COMPLAINTS:—During the year 910 (818) complaints were received in the department about various matters, all of which were investigated and the appropriate action taken where necessary.

INSPECTIONS

1.	Houses — defects and nuisances	661	(577)
2.	Houses — Survey and Housing Acts	1306	(608)
3.	Housing Act — (Improvement Grants)	200	(129)
4.	Houses — re-visits	1090	(1071)
5.	Rent Act	44	(117)
6.	Verminous or Insanitary Houses	90	(62)
7.	In connection with verminous persons	10	(—)
8.	Drainage work	487	(310)
9.	Public Health Act — Section 75	88	(178)
10.	Common Lodging Houses	8	(23)
11.	Clean Air Act	41	(105)
12.	Infectious Diseases Enquiries	13	(12)
13.	Shops Act	195	(511)
14.	Interviews with owners, etc.	509	(251)
15.	Markets and Stalls	141	(104)
16.	Slaughterhouses.....	1018	(1073)
17.	Poultry inspection	1048	(503)
18.	Stables and Piggeries	7	(10)
19.	Diseases of Animals Act	141	(86)
20.	Agriculture (Health, Welfare and Safety) Act	27	(3)
21.	Pets Act	3	(3)
22.	Schools	12	(24)
23.	Petrol Installations	229	(312)
24.	Explosives Stores	72	(29)
25.	Caravans	132	(126)
26.	Outworkers	11	(6)
27.	Ponds, Pools and Ditches	33	(14)
28.	Rag, Flock and Other Fillings Act, 1951	2	(2)
29.	Destructor and Tips	57	(40)
30.	Unsound Food	175	(182)
31.	Hairdressers and Barbers	22	(34)
32.	Miscellaneous	227	(137)
33.	Game Act	5	(—)
TOTAL		8104	(6642)

